For the ICRC, protection, in the broadest sense, aims to ensure that authorities and other actors respect their obligations and the rights of individuals in order to preserve the lives, security, physical and moral integrity and dignity of those affected by armed conflicts and/or other situations of violence.

Protection includes efforts that strive to prevent or put a stop to actual or potential violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and other relevant bodies of law or norms that protect human beings.

Protection aims to eradicate the causes of violations, or the circumstances that lead to them, by addressing mainly those responsible for the violations and those who may have influence over them.

Protection also includes activities that seek to reinforce the security of individuals and indirectly to reduce the threats they face and their exposure to risks.
Who should be protected in conflict?

- Persons not or no longer participating in hostilities:
  - civilians
  - wounded and sick combatants
  - POWs, other persons deprived of freedom

- Special protection for certain groups:
  - population of OT, children, women, elderly, foreigners, refugees and IDPs, etc.
ICRC's Approach

- Situation based
- Strictly humanitarian, neutral and independent approach
- Proximity with the persons affected (point of clash)
- Dialogue and confidentiality
- Diverse and flexible operational engagement and rapid deployment in emergencies
- Mid to long-term commitment in a given context
- Long-standing experience and professionalism
- Holistic and multidisciplinary approach
The Protection Egg

Responsive Action

Pattern of abuse

Environment building

Remedial Action
The Cycle of Protection Action and Information Management

THE CYCLE OF PROTECTION ACTION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- Problem Analysis and Setting Priorities
  - Information analysis
  - Data processing
  - Data collection
  - Definition of information to be collected

- Definition of Goals and Strategies
  - Definition of Objectives and Plan of Action

- Implementation

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Holistic approach
- Attention to specific vulnerabilities
- ICRC and external resources

Taking into account resources/opportunities and conditions for action
Conditions for Actions

- Quality of the Dialogue
- Identification of Authorities
- People's Safety
- ICRC Staff Safety
- Access

NON-ACTION
Conditions inadequately fulfilled/this immobilizing constraints

PARTIAL PROTECTION ACTION
Some conditions fulfilled/significant constraints

FULL PROTECTION ACTION
All conditions fulfilled/reduced or nonexistent constraints
Holistic approach
- Attention to specific vulnerabilities
- ICRC and external resources

THE CYCLE OF PROTECTION ACTION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Taking into account resources/ opportunities and conditions for action

Multidisciplinary strategy combining activities
Defining a strategy: combining modes of action and levels of Intervention
# Defining a strategy: example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Persuasion</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Mobilisation</th>
<th>Substitution</th>
<th>Denunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsive Action</strong></td>
<td>Data Collection and Demarche to the authorities</td>
<td>Help the camp social workers (authorities) to sensitize the community to the risk of sexual violence</td>
<td>Call on a friendly State to influence the authorities</td>
<td>Provision of firewood</td>
<td>Public report on sexual violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remedial Action</strong></td>
<td>Community education to avoid stigmatization of the victims</td>
<td>Setting up community centers</td>
<td>Mobilize other actors to fund rehabilitation centers for the victims</td>
<td>Provision of rapid and adequate health care</td>
<td>Public appeal denouncing the lack of adequate structures for victims of sexual violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment-building Action</strong></td>
<td>Encouraging the authorities to involve female police officer</td>
<td>Development of the law prohibiting sexual violence</td>
<td>Encouraging the media to cover the issue of sexual violence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public appeal denouncing the lack of prosecution for sexual violence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PCP Activities

**BILATERAL AND CONFIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIONS**
- Discreet representations to third parties
- Public representations

**Activities**
- Development of the law
- Recalling and promoting the knowledge of the law
- Structural support for the implementation of the law
- Neutral intermediary activities
- Registration/Follow-up of individuals
- Presence and accompaniment
- Empowerment/Self-protection capacity building
- Risk education/Awareness
- Assistance aiming to reduce risk exposure
- Specially protected areas
- Evacuation

**Objectives**
- Engage Responsibility
- Support
- Reduce Vulnerability
- Persons at risk

**Target**
- Authorities
- Documentation of Problems
Specific challenges

- Security constraints, risks for victims + staff
- Quality of information and analysis
- Perception and acceptance
- Manipulation
- Substitute for political action?
- Hard choices: access, impact, effectiveness?
- Difficulty of evaluating protection activities
Coordination challenges

- Preservation of the perception of ICRC as a neutral, impartial and independent organization: distinct identity?

- Increasing of "protection" focus from humanitarian organizations: risks and opportunities?

- Developing operational complementarity

- Understanding each other mandates and activities
PoC debate: Need for clarification of concept and activities of Protection

Distinguishing

1. Codes of conduct

2. Respect for IHL /IHRL in carrying out military or police operations

3. Improving protection for the civilians
PoC debate: Need for clarification of concept and activities of Protection

Distinguishing distinct elements captured within the notion of protection:

- protection as a set of legal obligations (ie. the law defines what constitutes protection)
- protection as an objective and a result to be achieved (ie: people at risk are actually protected)
- protection as a set of activities (humanitarian action distinct from physical protection, distinct from legal action, distinct from political action - all in the efforts to ensure that the rights of the individuals (ie: protection as defined by the law) is achieved.
Example:
UN police working with national police (on the job training)

Mainstreaming protection concerns into assistance / development activities

PROTECTION BY PEACEKEEPING MISSION

Example in detention:
Linking with judiciary to enhance treatment of individual cases waiting for trial

Working with communities and individuals at risks to reduce their exposure to threats

PROTECTION BY HUMANITARIAN / HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

Strengthening environment conducive to respect of individuals and communities (rule of law, legal framework)
Thank you for your attention!